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AN

ACCOUNT

OF A

Male Child

12 Inches and half long,

Taken after the Mothers Death out of the left *Fallopian Tube*, in *Tiverton*, *November*, 1714. after having been there near Three Years,

With a Copper Cut exactly describing the Figure of the Child.

By THO. HENLEY, M. D.

EXON:
Printed and Sold by *Philip Bishop*, in St. *Peter's Church-yard*, 1715.

MVSEVM
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A Wonderful Account OF A MALE CHILD, &c.

A Weavers Wife of this Town having conceiv'd, at about 18 Weeks quicken'd, and ſo went on, expecting the Birth of her Child in due time, tho' the Motions of it being more eaſily felt than commonly when in the Womb, and having had ſeveral Children before, being now, when it moved, affected with intolerable and unuſual Pains, ſhe was fearful there was ſomething extraordinary as to her preſent Caſe. The time of her Pregnancy being near compleat, ſhe cleaning her Chamber, accidentally ſlid off the Foot of the Bed on which ſhe ſtood. Soon after

the Pains came on, travelling ones, as by the Women were at first suppos'd to be; but none of the usual Fore-runners of an approaching Birth appear'd; those Pains being occasion'd only by the dying Strugglings of the Child, caus'd by the hurt received by the Mother's Fall.

After a-while, the Pains abating, the Women left her, expecting in a short time their Return, but in vain; neither indeed if they had return'd as before the Child's Death, was it possible for her by them to have been delivered, it being so enclos'd, as no Art but that of the *Culter Anatomicus*, could possibly take it out.

The Child now lying a dead weight, and the Tumor of the Abdomen continuing, and various Symptoms from time to time afflicting her; (as violent Pains, now in her Shoulders, then in her Loins; then violent excruciating Colical ones) made her Life very burthensome; tho' at times when a little easy, being poor, she follow'd her Work, as Spinning; and within Five Weeks of her Death walk'd from her House to the Market,

which

which is a large Quarter of a Mile. But now having in a great deal of Misery passed 2 Years, 10 Weeks, and odd Days since her Fall, and the Symptoms before mention'd re-doubling, together with terrible ones of Stomach and Head, she was fully sensible her Life was drawing to a Period; which considering, she sent for Mr. *Wood*, an ingenious Surgeon of this Place, (who then plainly felt the Bones of the Cranium) and earnestly desired him, that soon after her Death, he would dissect the Parts dedicated to Generation, in order fully to satisfie every one of the Truth of her Case; she laying, sometime before, much to Heart the unjust as well as uncharitable Reflections of some People, who would not believe but her Complaints were meer Shams, not imagining a Child could be detain'd so long within her; taking it rather, if any thing, for a scirrhous Tumor, tho' she positively asserted a Child must still be there, (notwithstanding long since dead) from its former frequent Motions, till a little after her Fall. Two Years, a 11 Months, a Fortnight, and odd Days being now compleated, she yielded to Fate. Mr. *Wood* not being able to attend

attend the Operation, the Evening after her Death, on Account of his only Child's Illneſs, ſome others went, juſt made an Inciſion, and finding a Child there, went ſtreight away.

Next Day I went with Mr. *Wood*, when we ſtrictly examin'd the Parts contain'd in the *Pelvis* of the Mother; and likewiſe fully obſerved the Child, and found both as follows:

But here, that this nice and rare Caſe may appear in its true Light, I muſt beg Leave briefly to relate the Method of Generation in Humane Bodies, for the Benefit of a great many in the Country, who, tho' they preſume to engage themſelves in the Practice of Phyſick, yet for want of a neceſſary Education, never having had Opportunities of ſeeing Diſſections, are almoſt, if not altogether ignorant of the Humane Frame, and Animal Oeconomy. In Coition therefore, the Male Seed being injected into the *Fundus Uteri*, the more volatile Parts, or *Aura Seminis*, paſſing from the Womb thro' the *Fallopian Tubes* (from *Fallopius* who firſt found them out, ſo called) to the *Ovaria*, fœcundates one (ſometimes Two or more) of the *Ova*. Now whether

whether the *Aura Seminis* it ſelf doth this, or Nature has appointed it only as a Vehicle for the *Animalcula*, with which all Male Sperm ſo mightily abounds, being a very nice Queſtion, I ſhall not pretend to decide, leaving every one to enjoy his own Opinion.

The Notion of the *Animalcula* ſeems not very unlikely, in caſe the accurate *Leewenhock*'s Obſervation be true.

A Man having no Children by his Wife, and there being no viſible Impediment on either Side, upon Tryal the Reaſon plainly appear'd; the Huſband's Seed being void of theſe *Animalcula*. In ſeveral Diſtempers their Motion is very languid, until the Diſtempers abating, they begin to recover their former Briskneſs, as is obſervable in Venereal Caſes, the Jaundice, &c. The *Ova* by ſome are look'd on only as proper *Nidus*'s for theſe *Animalcula*, and the Matter contain'd in them, to ſerve for Coats for the *Fœtus* in the Womb. An *Ovum* then being impregnated, whether by one or th'other ſoon ſwells to a Dimenſion exceeding the Cavity of its former Cell; ſo entring the wider End of the Tube, from its Form ſo call'd, reſembling

bling the Mouth of a Trumpet, tho' not ſo even; the End of this being ragged, for the cloſer embracing the *Ovaria* in the Act, and the ſafer conveying its Paſſenger into the *Fundus Uteri*; which by Reſpiration, the gentle Motion of the Muſcles of the *Abdomen*, and the *Periſtaltic* (one of the *Inteſtines*) is ſoon perform'd; as appears by the Relation of that exquiſite Anatomiſt *Frederick Ruyſch*, in the Year 1673. in his Letter to *Diemerbroek*, who diſſecting a Woman, that died ſuddenly in a ſhort time after Conception, found both *Tubes* more than uſually diſtended, the End of the right one intorted towards the *Ovaria*, and in the Womb an *Ovum* or Rudiments of a *Fœtus* floating in a limpid Liquor. An *Ovum* then naturally paſſes thro' one of theſe *Tubes* into the Womb, where ſticking to its inner Coat, a Communication between the Blood Veſſels is ſoon made, which forms the *Placenta* or *After-birth*; which is nothing but a Contexture or Interweaving of the *Umbilical Veſſels* or *Navelſtring*, with thoſe of the Womb, by which a Communication is maintain'd between Mother and *Fœtus*, for the latter's Nouriſhment.

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The *Fundus Uteri* being the proper Place for the *Fœtus* to tarry in till its Excluſion or Birth, by reaſon of its Frame, being capable of diſtending or ſuiting it ſelf to the gradual encreaſe of the *Fœtus*, makes our Caſe the more miraculous. Here the *Ovum* being by ſome Obſtruction or other ſtopt in the *Tube*, whoſe Cavity naturally is much too ſmall for the Entertainment of ſuch a Gueſt; yet ſticking to its inner Coat, as if it had been in the Womb, a *Placenta*, was form'd, and by the *Umbilick Veſſels*, a Child was nouriſh'd, ſo as to grow to its full Dimenſions. But now follows the Misfortune that attends all theſe præternatural Conceptions, when according to the Laws of Nature, the time of Expulſion is come, both Mother and Child, or at leaſt one muſt inevitably periſh, unleſs a Cæſarian Section intervenes: For a Child can never come into the Womb, thro' the End of the *Tube* inſerted into it, becauſe of its narrow cavity, ſcarcely admitting an Hogs Briſtle.

Having, I hope, fully ſhewn the Method of Generation in Humane Bodies, I ſhall now relate how upon view we found both Mother and *Child*.

When the common Teguments of the *Abdomen* were laid aside, we found the *Uterus* of its natural Colour and Dimenſion, as uſual in Women not pregnant, anſwering the Bigneſs of a *Katherine* Pear, but a little flattiſh, by the Preſſure of the Child; the *Tube* being extended thwartways over it, from one ſide of the *Pelvis* to the other; the *Os internum* very cloſe, as was likewiſe the End of the *Tube* in the *Matrix*; but the *Tube* it ſelf wonderfully diſtended, ſo as to contain a Child perfect in all its Limbs, of a full Habit of Body, 12 Inches and half in length (tho' the Thighs and Legs were drawn up as in the Cut; but when extended, was as long as moſt Children of a regular Birth) tho' the Cavity of the *Tube* naturally is no larger than to receive the top of ones little Finger, and its length not exceeding Four or Five Inches. The *Tube* was firmly fix'd to the *Peritoneum*, and the Membranes of the Child were almoſt obliterated, what remaining with the inner Coat of the *Tube* being putrify'd: The Bladder was in its Natural State.

As to the Child, it was very fleſhy; in

in length, as before; of a Pale Yellow Colour, much reſembling that of a Pickled Oyſter: the Membranes, as above obliterated; neither were there any *Veſtigia* of a *Placenta* remaining: There hang'd looſe about Four Inches of the *Umbilical Veſſels* much putrify'd; (See *C* in the Cut) as was the Brain, and almoſt conſum'd, the Bones of the *Cranium* being ready to fall aſunder, the *Oſſa Sincipitis* ſtanding bolt upright, as in the Cut *A*; the *Viſcera* in the *Abdomen* and *Thorax* ſo corrupted as hardly to be diſtinguiſh'd. Juſt below the ſpurious Ribbs *B* on the Right ſide, the outſide of the Left Thigh, *D* and the inſide of the Right Calf, *E* the Fleſh was mortify'd for about the breadth of Half a Crown in each place, as appears by the Spots.

Wonderful have been the many Accidents that have happen'd to Women with Child, as *Fœtus*'s lying a long while dead in the Womb, and putrifying; the burſting of the Womb, and the *Fœtus* falling into the Cavity of the *Abdomen*, and lying there till the Fleſh has been quite conſum'd; the Bones afterwards having been voided by the Womb, Anus, or Ulcers in the

Abdomen, or taken out by Inciſion, as may be ſeen in *Schenkius*, *Sennertus*, &c. *Riverius* ſaw one who voided all the Bones of a *Fœtus*, by the Navel, and afterwards the Navel cloſed, and ſhe perfectly recovered.

In *Fabricius Hildanus*, are ſeveral Remarkable Inſtances of this Nature; witneſs *The Burgundian* Matron, who had a dead *Fœtus* taken out by an Inciſion made near her Navel, after ſhe had carry'd it Twenty-five Months and a Fortnight, and recover'd. One *Margaret Volcier* of *Vienna* had a Child taken by Inciſion out of her Womb, after it had been there dead Four Years. The Lips of the Wound of the *Matrix* clos'd without Suture. The Inciſion of the *Abdomen* was cured as uſual in common Inciſions, and ſhe recover'd. About Twelve Months after ſhe was with Child again; but ſhe died in Travail, together with the Child, refuſing to undergo a ſecond Operation. *Bonetus* in his *Sepulcretum* mentions a Woman of *Ferrara*, who falling, as was ſuppos'd, in Travail, the uſual Symptoms of a Birth at Hand being all in due order, of a ſudden the Pains ceas'd. The Tumor of the Belly ſtill continuing, and ſhe

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feeling a great weight, all Means were us'd to extract the *Fœtus*, but in vain; at last she fell into a violent *Fœtid Diarrhoea*. The *Fæces* being examin'd, because of their abominable smell, unthought of, were found two small Ribbs. The Day following she voided two more, and expired; on dissecting her, The *Womb* and *Rectum* were found putrify'd, and there lay a *Fœtus* without a Head, or any Membrane, otherwise, the Four Ribbs excepted, entire.

These Relations indeed have Reference only to Natural Pregnancies, the *Fœtus*'s mention'd lying in the Place by Nature assign'd, tho' by some ill Accident or other happy Births were impeded. Ours never was in the Place naturally form'd for it; but from first to last, every Step (except just the *Fœcundation* of the *Ovum*) was amazing, neither is there in any Author a Case parallel to ours, tho' there want not Instances of *Tubarian* Conceptions.

Riolanus mentions a small *Fœtus* exactly form'd, taken out of the right *Fallopian Tube* after the Mother's Death at *Paris*; and likewise another of the length of his Thumb truly form'd, taken out of one of the Tubes, the

Mother

Mother dying the Seventh Month of her pregnancy, after having, for the Space of Four of them, ſuffer'd excruciating Pains.

Reynerus de Graf mentions a Diſſection perform'd by *Paſgalius* a *Paris* Surgeon, on a Woman that had a double Womb; but that muſt be as the Learned *Oldenburgius* obſerves, the effect of his ignorance of the *Fallopian Tubes*; and had they been ſooner found out, the great *Harvey*, ſays *Bonetus*, had ſaved himſelf the trouble of his Works *De Generatione*. This Woman having conceiv'd at Four Months End, the *Fœtus* encreaſing, and wanting more room than the narrow Cavity of the *Tube* afforded, burſt it; upon which follow'd ſuch a vaſt Flux of Blood, as well nigh to fill the Cavity of the *Abdomen*. So not only the *Fœtus*'s Grave was made in its Mother's Belly, but ſhe likewiſe at Three Days End died in violent Convulſions.

Upon the Whole then, not one of theſe Hiſtories equals ours. The firſt ſort were natural Conceptions, and the *Fœtus* lay in the Womb, tho' by ill Accidents, either both, or at leaſt one died. And as to the latter, *viz. Tubarian*

rian Conceptions, neither of them is to be compar'd with this; either as to the Dimenſions of the *Fœtus*, in any Author, the largeſt not exceeding the length of ones Thumb; or as to its ſtay in the *Tube*, not one of theſe tarrying there Nine Months; ours alive at Nine Months End, and detain'd after its Death Two Years, Ten Weeks, and odd Days, making in all, Two Years, Eleven Months, a Fortnight, and odd Days.

FINIS.

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